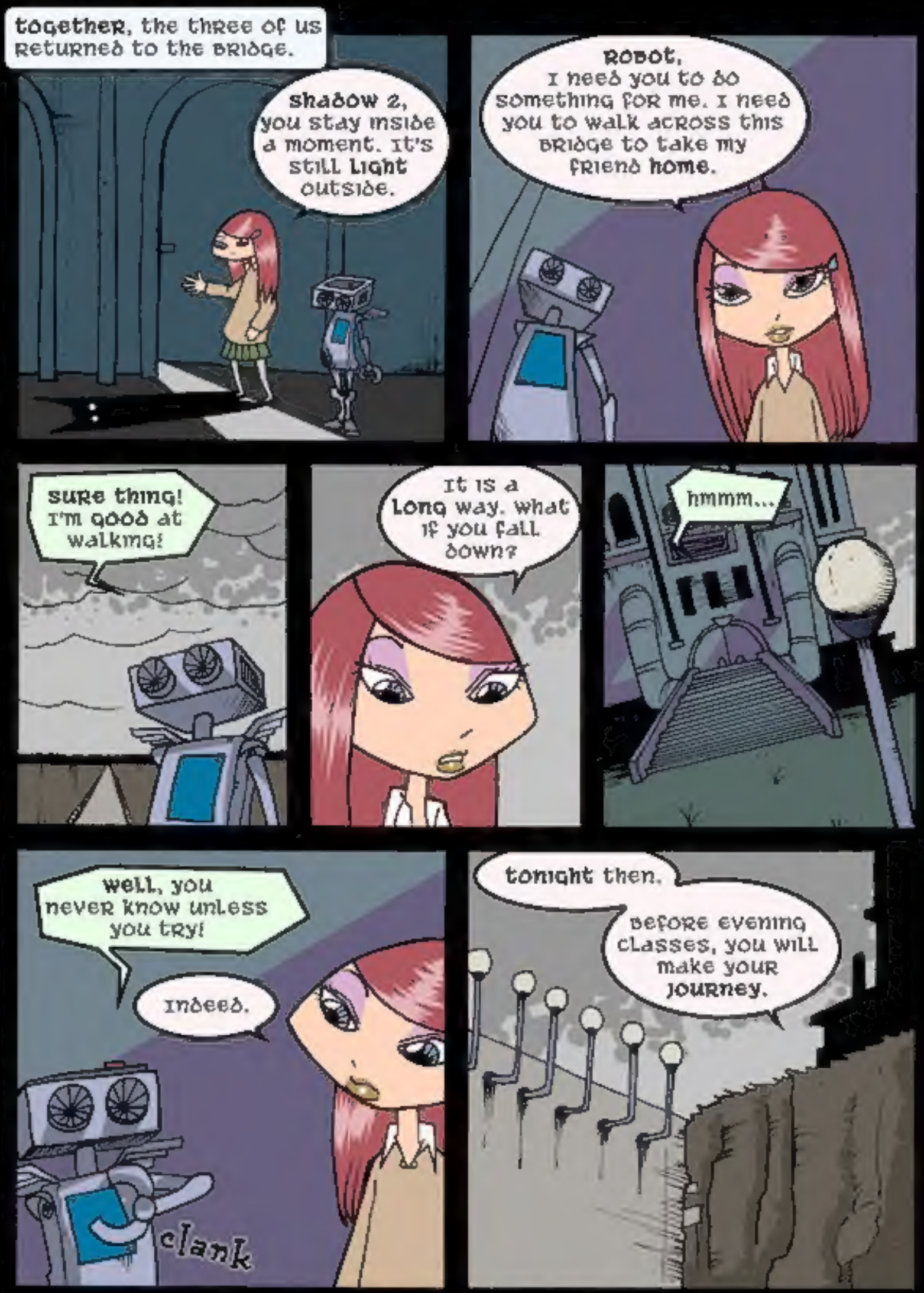
my name is antimony carver. I would like to share with you the strange events that took place while I attended school at...

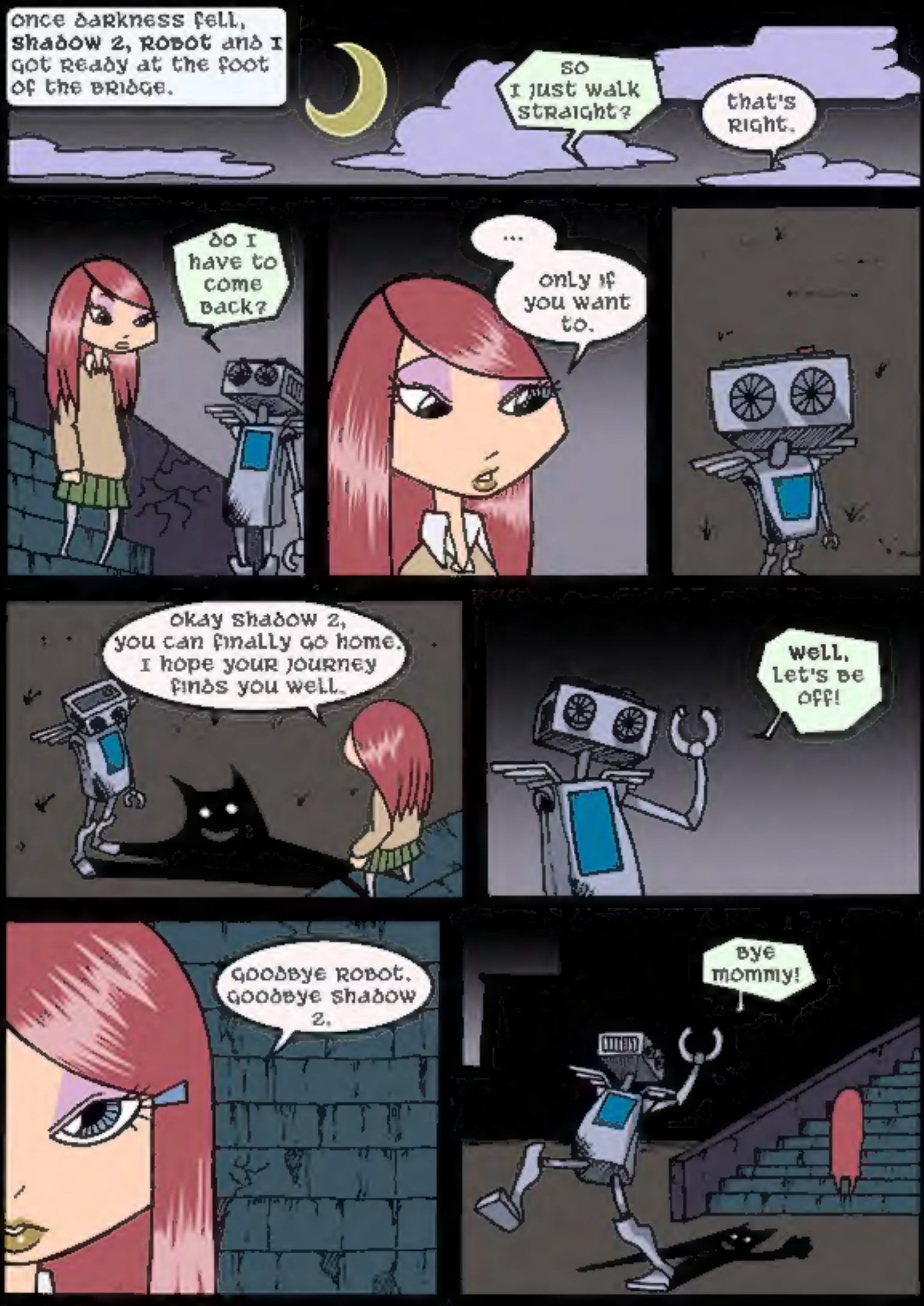
Gunnerkrigg Court

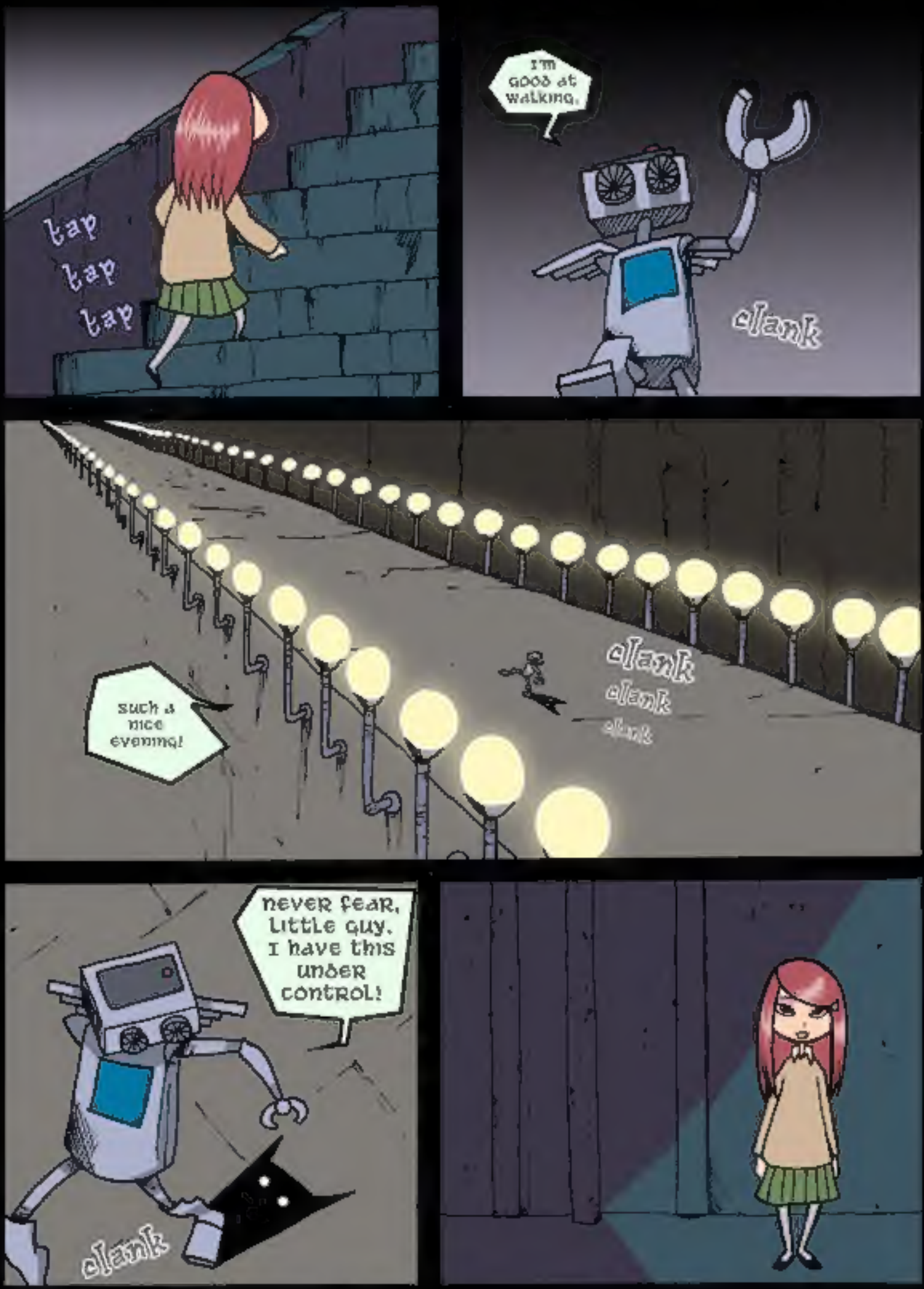
Chapter 1:

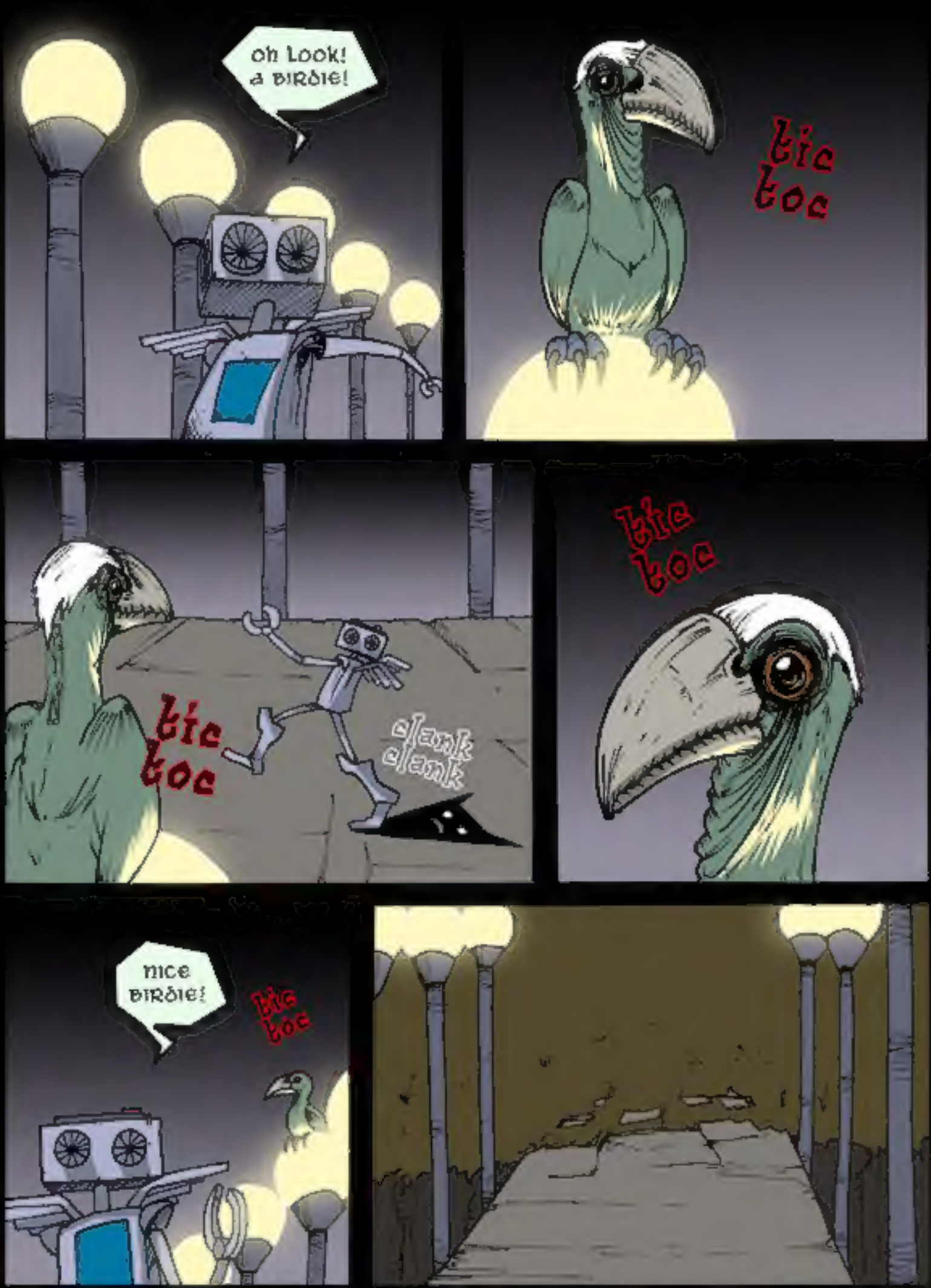
The Shadow and The Robot

By:
Tom Siddell


together, the three of us returned to the bridge.
shadow 2, you stay inside a moment. it's still light outside.
robot, I need you to do something for me. I need you to walk across this bridge to take my friend home.
sure thing! I'm good at walking!
It is a long way. what if you fall down?
hmmm...
well, you never know unless you try!
indeed.
clank
tonight then.
before evening classes, you will make your journey.


once darkness fell, shadow 2, robot and I got ready at the foot of the bridge.
so I just walk straight?
that's right.
so I have to come back?
...
only if you want to.
okay shadow 2, you can finally go home. I hope your journey finds you well.
well, let's be off!
goodbye robot. goodbye shadow 2.
bye mommy!


tap
tap
tap
I'm good at walking.
clank
such a nice evening!
clank
clank
clank
never fear, little guy. I have this under control!
clank


oh look! a birdie!
tic toc
tic toc
clank clank
tic toc
nice birdie!
tic toc

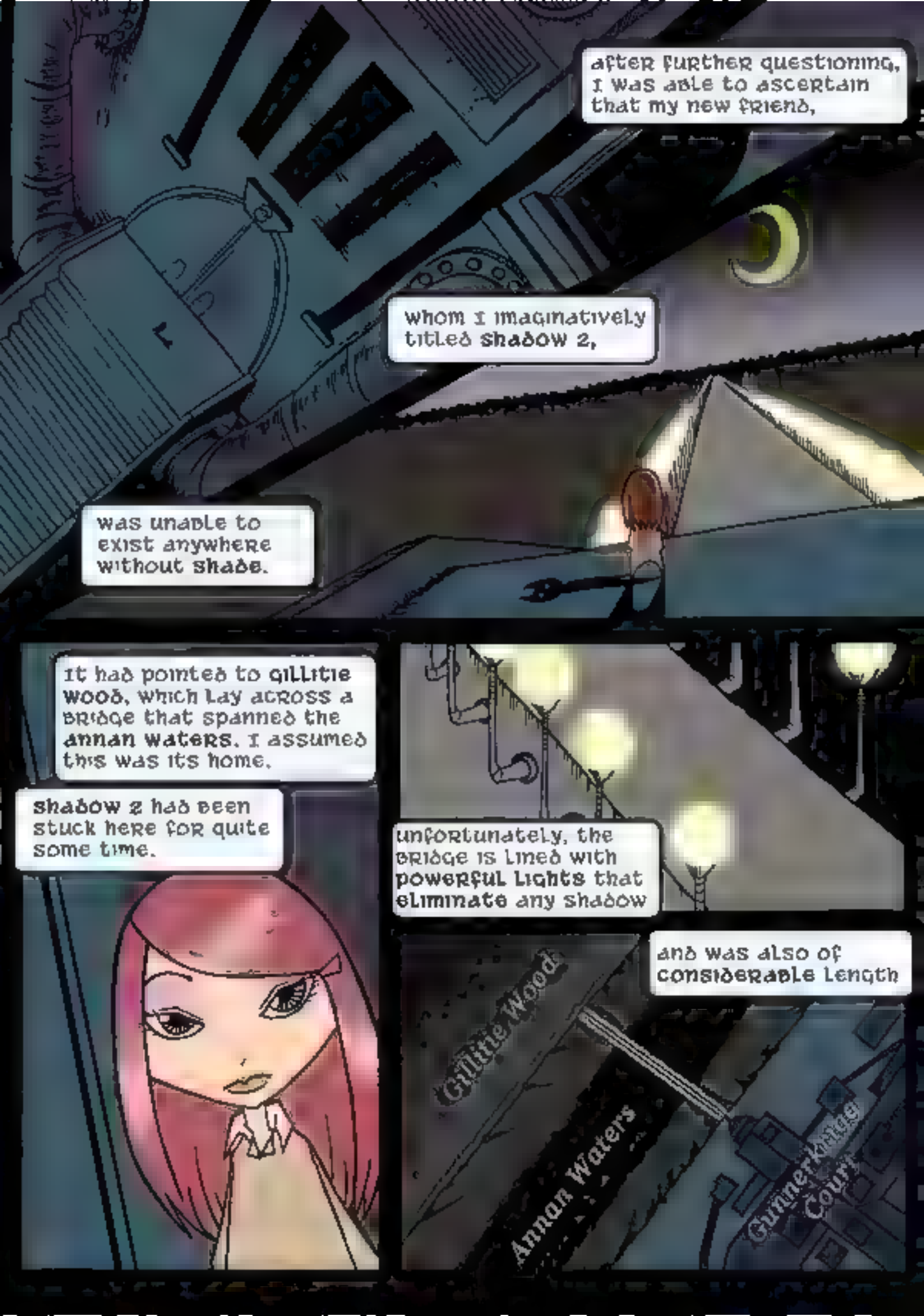
clank clank clank
here you go, little buddy!
hmmm, I should look for a new arm!
clank clank

creak
miss carver. what are you doing out here?
sorry sir. I got lost.
yes, well. come along now. evening classes are about to begin.
click

Gunnerkrigg Court does not look much like a school at all.
It closer resembles a large industrial complex than a place of learning.
Within the first week of my attendance, I began noticing a number of strange occurrences.
The most prevalent of these oddities being the fact that I seemed to have obtained a second shadow.
NO

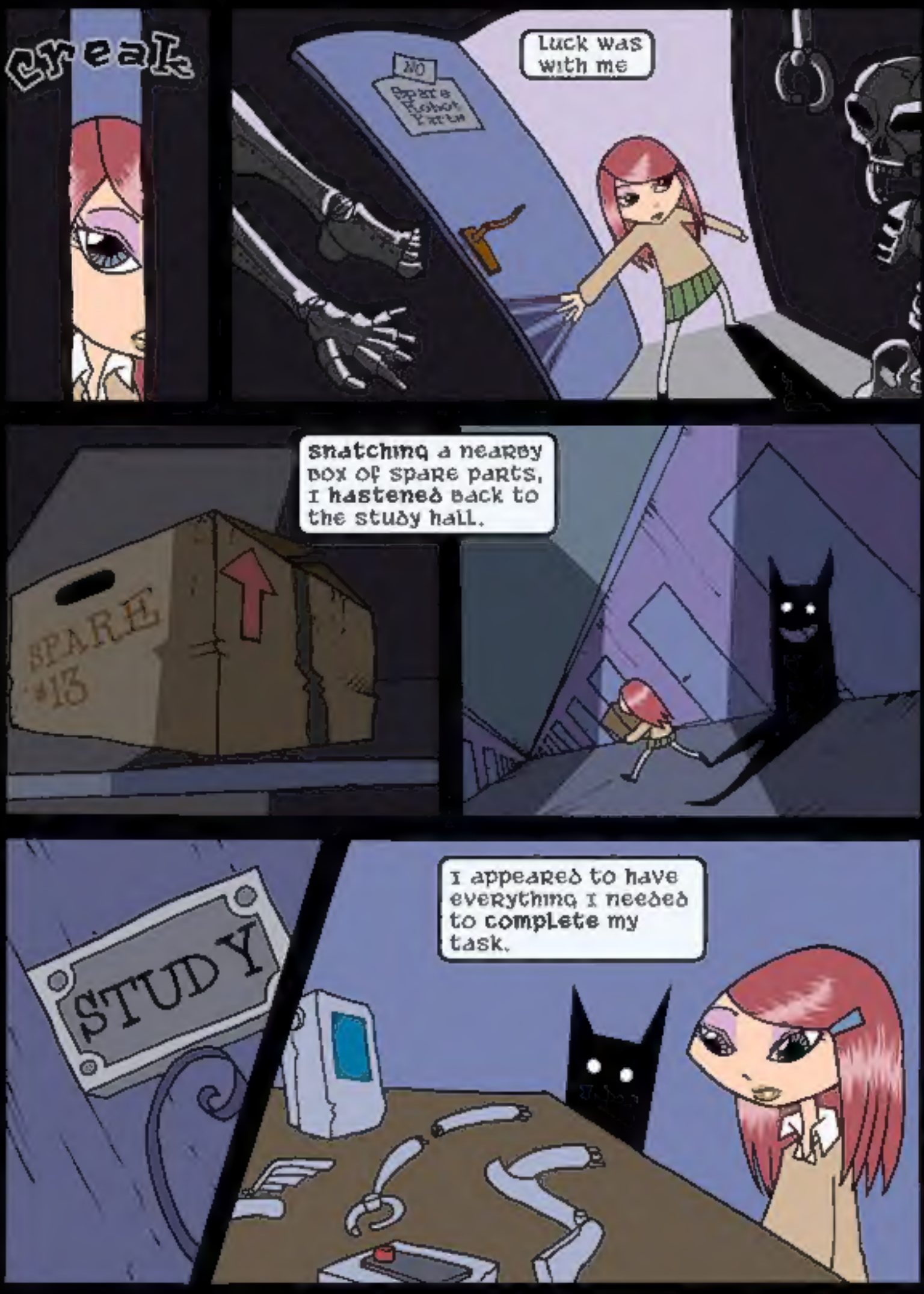
at times I would see this creature jump from shadow to shadow
once in a while hiding in the dark recesses of the court.
this made difficult my attempts to convey the situation to members of the faculty
as my uninvited guest seemed to shy away from attention.
more often than not, however, this grim spectre matched my every step.
Study
one evening, during solitary study
I decided to confront the being.
snap

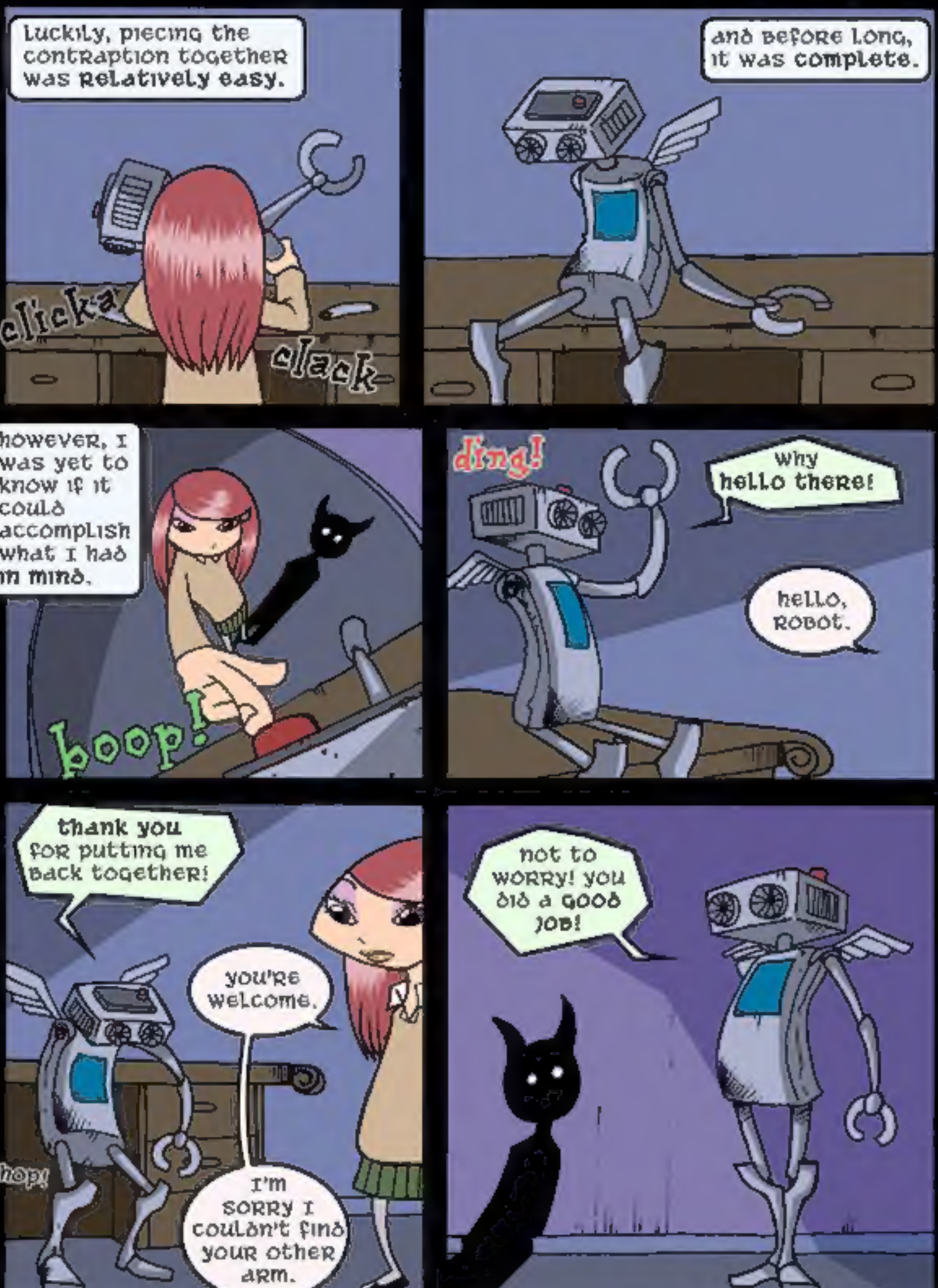
hello. can you understand me?
YES
what do you want from me?
HELP
help?
ESCAPE
you want to escape? where are you trying to go?


after further questioning, I was able to ascertain that my new friend,
whom I imaginatively titled **shadow 2**,
was unable to exist anywhere without **shade**.
it had pointed to **gillitie wood**, which lay across a bridge that spanned the **annan waters**. I assumed this was its home.
shadow 2 had been stuck here for quite some time.
unfortunately, the bridge is lined with **powerful lights** that **eliminate** any shadow
and was also of **considerable** length
Gillitie Wood
Annan Waters
Gunnerkrigg Court

Shadow 2 was barely able to venture outside without me providing cover under foot.
tap tap tap
and the Annan Waters at the bottom of the ravine posed an impassable obstacle on his own.
though he could not say why.
as I was forbidden from setting foot off school grounds, I could not walk Shadow 2 to Gillitie Wood myself.
there was only one sensible resolution to this problem.
I must construct a robotic walking device which will provide you with transit across the bridge!

It soon became clear that I hadn't the first idea how to build a robot.
so I had to prepare for arduous study in the field of robotics.
Pencils
Pens
as well as devise a way of collecting and working raw materials into useable parts with which to create my little tin man.
Computers
Chairs
Desks
the library seemed like a good place to start.
NO
Spare Robot Parts
or not.


creak
NO
Luck was with me
snatching a nearby box of spare parts, I hastened back to the study hall.
SPARE #13
STUDY
I appeared to have everything I needed to complete my task.


luckily, piecing the contraption together was relatively easy.
click-a
-clack
and before long, it was complete.
however, I was yet to know if it could accomplish what I had in mind.
boop!
ding!
why hello there!
hello, robot.
thank you for putting me back together!
you're welcome.
hop!
I'm sorry I couldn't find your other arm.
not to worry! you did a good job!